



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : William A. Shull et al.

Art Unit : 2877

Serial No. : 09/305,808

Examiner : H. Lee

Filed : April 28, 1999

Title : HELIUM-NEON LASER LIGHT SOURCE GENERATING TWO  
HARMONICALLY RELATED, SINGLE-FREQUENCY WAVELENGTHS FOR  
USE IN DISPLACEMENT AND DISPERSION MEASURING  
INTERFEROMETRY

9/Response  
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Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE

In response to the action mailed October 4, 2001, we submit the following remarks.

We acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 1-33 are allowed.

Of the remaining claims, claims 34-46, claims 34-37 are the independent claims. Among other features, independent claims 34 and 35 each recite "a Helium-Neon laser light source that generates two harmonically related, single frequency output beams" (emphasis added). Similarly, independent claims 36 and 37 each recite "providing two harmonically related, single-frequency output beams from a Helium-Neon laser light source" (emphasis added).

The action rejected independent claims 34-37 as obvious over Hill (U.S. 6,137,574) in view of Sommargren (U.S. 4,684,828). The action concedes that "Hill does not show that the laser source is a Helium-Neon light source" (page 2 of the action), but claims to find this element in Sommargren - "Sommargren shows a Helium-Neon laser light source for producing two harmonically related, single frequency output beams" (page 2 of the action). We disagree.

We submit that Sommargren does not show "a Helium-Neon laser light source that generates two harmonically related, single frequency output beams," as required by the rejected independent claims (emphasis added). To the contrary, Sommargren describes generating a

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